

REMARKS

Claims 6-21 and 27 were previously withdrawn, but have now been canceled herein. Claim 3 has also been canceled. New independent claim 29 has been added herein. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 22-26, 28 and 29 are at issue herein. These claims (except new claim 29) have all been FINALLY rejected as being anticipated by Romine U.S. Patent No. 6,308,483.

The claims have also been objected to as appearing to be to the combination of a dowel and insulating plate. The claims have been amended to address this issue to make clear that they are directed to a subcombination dowel (which the Office Action treated the previous claims as being directed to).

Further to a telephone conference between the undersigned and the Examiner, the pending independent claims have been amended to be clearly readable so as to be limited to the structure distinguishing from the very different Romine structure.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the pressing plate has a single planar lower side with a single outer circumference (distinguishing from the Romine structure in which the lower surface consists of several concentric rings lying in several different planes, each plane arguably defining its own outer circumference), and that the cutting elements are "curved along a circumferential length to substantially follow said pressing plate outer circumference" (distinguishing from the cylindrical, spike-like barbs of Romine, located at each of the different "outer circumferences" of the concentric rings of the lower surface).

(Claim 1 has also been amended to more clearly indicate that the claim is to the dowel, with the insulating plate being recited as environment.)

Independent claim 28 has been similarly amended, now reciting that the pressing plate has a single planar lower side which is circular about an axis with a maximum radius from the axis at the single outer rim of the plate lower side, and that the cutting elements are curved with the maximum radius to substantially follow the pressing plate outer rim.

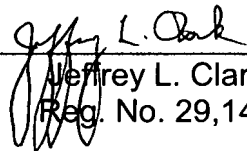
Per the discussion of the undersigned with the Examiner, it is believed that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 22-26 and 28 as presented herein should now be sufficiently clear and limited so as to patentably distinguish from Romine.

New independent claim 29 is identical to amended claim 1, except that it recites only that the pressing plate has a lower side, without requiring that there be only a "single planar" lower side. It is respectfully submitted that this claim should also be allowable, given the recitations distinguishing from Romine (and also added to the other claims by this amendment), that there is a single outer circumference, that there are tooth shaped cutting elements which are curved along a circumferential length to substantially follow the plate outer circumference (distinguishing, e.g., from the spike-like barbs of Romine).

Accordingly, pending claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 22-26, 28 and 29 are believed to be
in condition for allowance, and early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ,
CLARK & MORTIMER

By  _____
Jeffrey L. Clark
Reg. No. 29,141

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500 West Madison Street
Suite 3800
Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 876-1800